



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 14.

Tax official statement of the refunding of the city debt will be read with interest by all Alexandrians and indeed by all interested in the city's welfare. The cost of refunding the debt of \$745,000 from the engraving of the bond still the last one of them had been disposed of amounted to about \$5,000, or about two-thirds of one per cent. To City Auditor Price, who mainly directed the work and carried out the details, and to the committees having the refunding in charge are due the thanks of the entire community for the valuable services they rendered the city. The Gazette today gives considerable space to the report of the City Council finance committee in regard to the refunding of the debt. Its success was certainly as great as could have been expected. Several of our citizens at the outset promptly expressed a determination to surrender large holdings and accept the new bonds. The banks, all of them, were valuable auxiliaries. The Gazette does not wish to exploit one to the disparagement of the others, yet it learns from the officer who was always in touch with the business of the refunding of this debt that the refunding was greatly simplified when the cashier of the First National Bank succeeded in disposing of the last \$75,000 of the bond, thus relieving the city of future trouble in the matter.

As an illustration of his declaration "that graft runs through the business system of New York from top to bottom," Rev. Dr. Frederick Lynch, of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, in that city, charged that the New York undertaker in many cases pays a fixed fee to preachers and sextons for turning business over to him. "I had been in New York hardly a month," says Dr. Lynch, "when an undertaker came to see me and offered me a take-off on every funeral I would get him. Of course they go to the sextons as well. I do not know whether they have an agreement with the doctors or not." "This truly is a sad state of affairs."

In the event that a proposed law is enacted by the next Nebraska legislature, a person may live in that state without danger of his verminiferous appendix being removed without his consent. A member-elect of the lower House states that he has been approached about the passage of a bill making it a felony to remove an appendix unless after a consultation of physicians or surgeons it should be found necessary to save life. A senator-elect proposes to go even further, and will amend the bill so as to make it a felony for any doctor, nurse or attendant to leave scissors, knives, gauze or other foreign articles in the body after an operation. When these measures become laws Nebraska will sleep sound.

In many country districts in Hungary superstition is still rife. One of the latest evidences of this comes from Grosswardin. In the communities of Vaskoh and Baresed severe earthquake shocks were experienced and in the former place the church bells were started ringing. A "witch" living in the neighborhood persuaded the peasants that the devil was hungry and was shaking the earth in his anger. Thereupon they collected a number of calves and goats and drove them into a cave where the devil was supposed to be dwelling. After this they set fire to the forest in two places to drive out the devil living there.

In the Federal Court, at Greensboro, N. C., on Monday two men, Quaster and Napier, charged with violating the white slave law, were found not guilty by Judge Boyd, on the grounds that the law was unconstitutional in that it interfered with the principle of State's right. This decision will have great effect on other cases of this nature to be tried in that state.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS will present to Zaandam, in Holland, a statue of Peter the Great. It was in this village, it will be remembered, that Peter learned shipbuilding for the benefit of his country. The house in which he lived has long been a place of pilgrimage for foreigners visiting Holland. It was restored and enclosed for its preservation by Emperor Nicholas's grandfather.

May Yoh, the former London music hall singer, whose marriage to Lord Francis Hope and subsequent elopement with Major Strong, son of former Mayor Strong, of New York, brought her into the limelight, has again embarked upon the matrimonial seas. Her new husband is F. H. Reynolds, a musician, formerly attached to a musical comedy company, whom she has just married at Seattle.

FROM WASHINGTON

A delegation including Senators Overman and Simmons, of North Carolina, Chamberlain of Oregon, and Page of Vermont, called on President Taft today in behalf of A. C. Shaw, formerly officer of the forest service, who was debarred last winter from practice before the Interior Department by Secretary Ballinger. Shaw was dismissed by executive order, together with Overton W. Price, assistant forester, for pernicious activity against Secretary Ballinger in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. He immediately began the practice of law, but Secretary Ballinger refused him permission to appear before the Interior Department in land cases. Friends of Shaw brought the matter to the attention of the president, but action was postponed. He is at present practicing a real estate business in his case. The president told the delegation that he would give the matter immediate attention.

Giles L. Wilson, now State's Bank examiner for South Carolina, was today appointed a National Bank examiner by the comptroller of the currency. Final details of his gift of \$10,000, for the promotion of world's peace, which Andrew Carnegie is to announce tomorrow at the first session of the American Society for the judicial settlement of international disputes at the New Willard, were arranged here today. While the philanthropist refused to disclose his entire plan, it is known that he expects to see a world-wide organization which will be created by this vast gift. He has already secured 30 trustees for the fund, including Senator Root and President Butler of Columbia University. The distribution of the \$500,000 a year which the \$10,000,000 endowment will yield is to be left entirely in the hands of the trustees. It was considered possible today that the trustees would co-operate with Secretary State Knox to promote the proposed peace court.

Ten million dollars in five per cent bonds were today formally turned over by Andrew Carnegie to a new peace foundation, the income from which is to go toward the establishment of international peace. President Taft will be the honorary president of the foundation, while Senator Elihu Root, permanent representative to the United States at The Hague peace tribunal, was chosen by the trustees as the active president. The foundation is to be perpetual, and the method of disposing of the anticipated \$500,000 annual income is left entirely to the trustees. Should the purpose of the foundation ever be achieved in full, the funds from the foundation are to go toward the abolition of the "next most degrading of evils." Among the trustees is former Governor A. J. Montague, of Virginia.

Several hundred delegates to the Sixth Annual Convention of the American Civic Association met here today and flared the trail of civic improvement from political, artistic and moral standpoints. The convention will last three days, during which time the delegates will be addressed by civic authorities from various sections of this country, and from abroad. Today, following the reading of many reports on what has been done during the past year, several addresses were made.

The new senator from Louisiana, who succeeds the late Samuel D. McEnery, John Randolph Thornton, was introduced to President Taft today by his colleague, Senator Foster.

Now that the executive has cleared up his judicial slate, he is turning his attention to federal patronage. Practically all of his congressional callers today came up to talk "paw."

It became known here today that President Taft, a la Sultan Haroun of the Arabian Nights, had last night donned a big fur overcoat and a slouch hat and walked through the city streets in the dusk of evening to the federal Department. The executive wanted to surprise Postmaster General Hitchcock. The latter was engaged in clearing up a few administrative odds and ends when the executive put in an appearance. After remaining a few moments, chuckling at Hitchcock's embarrassment and congratulating him on his fidelity to work, the executive returned to the White House. Mr. Taft was accompanied by two secret service agents.

The last organized resistance to the government of Mexico has been brought to an end, according to a dispatch from Ambassador Wilson at Mexico City, received at the State Department today. Mr. Wilson reports that the federal troops have completely routed the revolutionaries and captured the city of Cuernavaca. This clears the state of Chihuahua and other parts of the country of all revolt against President Diaz, says Mr. Wilson.

Ambassador Dudley at Rio de Janeiro reports to the State Department today that the crews of the revolting Brazilian warships disembarked yesterday without resistance. He states that the government controlled the situation, and that congress is still discussing the question of what shall be done with the mutineers.

Captain John J. O'Connell, of the 28th Infantry, U. S. A., formally stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., has been dropped from the Army as a deserter. Captain O'Connell, who is the son of Brigadier General John J. O'Connell, U. S. A., retired of Washington, D. C., disappeared from his post three months ago. Just previous to his disappearance an alleged shortage had been discovered in his coast exchange account. He has not been heard from since his disappearance.

A reversionment for bids for the construction of a collier will in all probability be issued in a few days by the Navy Department. Two bids were received last week for the construction of this collier, but as one bid was greatly in excess of the maximum cost of \$1,000,000 fixed by Congress and the other was withdrawn the advertising becomes necessary. It is stated that the 8-hour provision is partly responsible for the difficulties.

President Taft today accepted an invitation to speak at the banquet of the Local Grand Lodge of Masons in commemoration of their centenary here on February 20. He also promised to attend the Southern Commercial Congress at Atlanta, Georgia, on March 10.

SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

THIRD SESSION.
SENATE

Consideration of the omnibus claims bill was resumed in the Senate today. The reading of the measure was completed Monday and committee amendments were given precedence in being taken up.

An amendment offered by Senator Frye, allowing \$95,000 to the New Orleans Towing Association for coal taken by General Benjamin F. Butler in 1862 was adopted.

Senator Bristow (Rpn., Kan.) spoke vigorously in opposition to the French spoliation claims feature of the bill.

House. The "one-hundred-thousand-a-minute" House began work on its fourth big money measure today, when the legislative appropriation bill was introduced. But as today was Calendar Wednesday, debate on the bill will begin tomorrow.

No spendthrift ever disposed of money quite so fast as the short session of the Sixty-first Congress has. Nearly seven working days of its existence, the House has expended more than \$100,000,000 in record time. The Indian appropriation bill, carrying more than eight million, the river and harbor bill with about thirty-one million and the pension bill with more than \$152,000,000 have been rushed through. And the House has found time to talk about everything from the abolition of Indian warehouses to a tariff for revenue only. The work of passing the appropriation bills has been done in "between."

The House has been in session just 31 1/2 working hours—1800 minutes. In that time it has disposed of about \$102,000,000. That means that every hour the House has been in session has meant an expenditure of more than sixty million—more than \$100,000,000 a minute.

While a short session of Congress usually disposes of the appropriation bills in short order, the phenomenon of getting rid of three big bills within a week is extraordinary. House leaders say that the record will be kept up and that all the appropriation bills at this session will be disposed of in record breaking time.

The House committee on appropriations reported the legislative, executive and judicial bill carrying an appropriation of \$85,325,219, which is \$432,375 less than the estimates submitted by the various departments and is \$108,950 less than the appropriation for 1910 exclusive of the increase from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 to complete the work of the twelfth census. The cut is affected largely by the elimination of 150 salaries, estimates for which make a total cut of 237 salaries on the present appropriation for running the government.

A bill providing for a board of national defense to consist of the secretaries of war and navy, the chairmen of the House and Senate committees on military and naval affairs and appropriations was introduced by Mr. Hobson.

This board, it is intended, is to dictate the policy of national defense and to carry it out both in time of peace and war.

The answer of the War Department to the resolution of Mr. McClachlan, calling for a report to the ability of the U. S. army to repel invasion of the Pacific coast was sent to the House today by Secretary of War Dickinson and an effort was made to smother it. Word was passed out from the speaker's office that the report would be held in secrecy. The War Department refused to give out any information regarding it. It is understood that the administration deems it unwise to publish to the world any weakness in the national defense.

A pretty mess developed when the speaker turned the report over to Asahel Hinds, the parliamentarian, and asked him for a ruling. Hinds declared that the House could not receive it because it was marked confidential.

Representative McClachlan said he knew of no reason why the report should not be made public and declared that he would make a fight to force its publication, as that was the purpose of his resolution.

A fight that involved the principles of "calendar Wednesday" as established by the insurgents in their fight on the rules last session, occupied over an hour today.

Mr. Hughes precipitated the struggle with a point of order. The Moon bill, reforming the judiciary, which was before the House at adjournment last "calendar Wednesday," and he wanted the bill amended.

CITY COUNCIL

All the members were present in both branches of the City Council at the meeting last night. A considerable volume of business was transacted, and Mr. A. H. Oehlert was re-elected Police Commissioner from the Third ward by a joint meeting.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Mr. Field, from the finance committee, submitted the final report of the committee in reference to the refunding of the city debt. The report will be found in full elsewhere in the Gazette.

Mr. Field said much of the work in connection with the exhibit had been accomplished previous to his appointment to the committee which had also been aided materially by Auditor Price. Continuing Mr. Field said:

"As shown in the report just presented and read, in March, 1909, as the time of maturity of the bonds of 1879 approached, it became evident that there would be some where in the neighborhood of \$130,000 of our new city bonds unexchanged and unaided, and that some provision would have to be made for the redemption of the old bonds, either by a temporary loan, or the sale of the new bonds to the highest bidder. The finance committee advertised for bids, or for the submission of a business for fiscal proposition whereby the city would be enabled to pay for the maturing bonds. Representatives of Messrs. Hamilton & Co., bond brokers, of Baltimore, the Citizens National Bank of Baltimore, and the city, were present. The only offer for the purchase of the bonds was received from Hamilton & Co., at 95.26 and interest. The committee, after considering the matter very carefully, felt that, in view of the generous and patriotic response on the part of our people in exchanging the old 3.5's for the new 4's on a par basis, in face of the fact that other municipalities of corresponding values were selling around 96, it would be right and best to make every possible effort to dispose of the balance of the bonds around par, and for this reason it would be best to negotiate a temporary loan, and carry the bonds with that end in view. The bid of Hamilton & Co., was therefore, declined, and the committee became convinced that an offer of the First National Bank of Alexandria, to negotiate a loan of \$100,000, more, at 3 1/2 per cent. for four months, was accepted. The loan continued at 3 1/2 per cent. until January 1st, 1910 (eight months), from which time it has paid 4 per cent. notwithstanding that commercial paper in Philadelphia and Baltimore, as well as smaller communities, was paying 6 per cent. and demand collateral paper was freely offered at 5 and 5 1/2 per cent. I do not mention this last fact to exploit the success of the bank in carrying this loan at the low rate, but merely to show conditions as they existed, that we may see that we have much upon which to congratulate ourselves. We were not inclined to be pessimistic, and regarding the temporary loan that blows, but we could not continue indifferent to existing conditions, as regards 4 per cent. securities, which appeared to our minds and to the minds of those who, in larger fields, were in a better position to judge as to the future of such securities. After carefully considering the matter, we felt justified in submitting to you for your consideration certain facts which came to us in the experience of other communities and in the regular course of business, and that now that the committee had shown its good faith by a conscientious effort to dispose of the remaining bonds on a par basis, it was well to try to conditions and make the concession necessary to effect a sale. City of Danville and city of Norfolk 4's have been recently offered at 93 and 92, respectively, yielding nearly 4 1/2 per cent. City of Lynchburg 4's are rather freely offered at 95 and interest, yielding about 4.31 per cent. These prices include brokers' profits, or commissions. The city of Philadelphia opened bids for May 15th for \$8,000,000 of 4 per cent. bonds; only \$847,000 were bid at about par; and it is said they will have to raise the rate to float them above par, as other large cities have had to do. On May 25th, the city of Baltimore opened bids on \$2,400,000 of 4 per cent. bonds, and only \$240,000 of them were bid at as high as par. These bonds are non-taxable, which should make them especially attractive, as, at that price, they are practically a 4 1/2 per cent. investment for residents of Baltimore. The bids were as low as 95, and averaged 97 1/2. We do not feel that these prices are due in any way to temporary conditions, but are the result of a gradual demand on the part of investors for a higher rate. For some time the ordinary interest rate on municipal bonds especially has been so much less than can be realized on money used in other channels, that buyers simply refuse to consider them. In the larger money centers where rates are usually lower, collateral loans secured by active, listed collaterals are bringing from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. It was therefore, unreasonable to expect that the loan would be carried much longer at a 4 per cent. rate. We were therefore, face to face with the proposition as to whether it would not be better to sell the bonds on a basis of other Virginia bonds and be rid of the matter once for all, or to pay the slight increase in rate and still have the matter on our hands. In our humble opinion, the first course was the wisest."

The report was ordered to be received. Mr. Field subsequently introduced a resolution which was adopted providing that when Council adjourned it be to meet on the second Tuesday in January, 1911.

The finance committee submitted favorable reports on resolutions to pay the heirs of the late James F. Webster his entire salary for the month of November, 1910; also to pay the widow of the late Lieutenant Smith the remainder of the latter's salary for the month of July, 1910.

Mr. Hill moved that the report be amended by providing that the heirs of the late chief be paid also for the month of December.

The report as amended was adopted. Mr. Brill then moved that the committee's report in reference to the late Lieutenant Smith be amended and that in addition to the remainder of the month of July, 1910, that his widow

be also paid his salary for the month of August, 1910. This motion was adopted.

The finance committee made a favorable report on a resolution appropriating \$5,000 for continuing street and sewer work in the city; also for the horses recently purchased for the Columbia Steam Fire Engine Company; also a report recommending an appropriation of \$24 to defray the expenses of the Virginia League of Municipalities; also a report recommending a resolution appropriating \$5,000 for continuing street and sewer work. The reports were adopted by unanimous votes.

An ordinance providing for the laying of a gas light at the northeast corner of Columbus and Wythe streets, was referred to the Committee on Light.

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of which was less than 1 per cent, having very much less than any broker would have charged. The city, he said, had acted in a most conservative manner in the debt settlement and he predicted that if its affairs are conducted in the future as they have been in the past several years everything would come out all right.

Mr. Snowden congratulated all who had taken part in the successful refunding of the debt. He said it had been successful because the city had established a reputation for honesty and conservatism—it bought nothing for what it could not pay and paid the debts promptly. He thought it remarkable that a debt of \$745,000 could be funded at a cost of \$5,000 or less than one per cent. He said that when a Baltimore financier had been told that the cost of refunding Alexandria's debt had been about \$5000, the Baltimorean had replied that the cost in any city he knew of would have exceeded \$20,000. Both Mr. Snowden and Mr. Burke spoke of the services of City Auditor Price, saying that without his assistance the work could hardly have been so well done.

A resolution passed by the Aldermen directing that the estate of Lieut. Smith be paid the amount of his salary for the month in which he died and also for an additional month was passed. Similar action was taken in regard to an allowance to the estate of the late Capt. J. F. Webster.

A resolution was brought in by the committee of finance and public property appropriating \$650 for the purchase of two horses for the Columbia engine.

Mr. Williams asked if it was more lawful for the first wardens to spend \$650 without first getting Council's consent than it was for the health officer to spend \$650 in the same manner.

Both the chair and Mr. Burke thought it best to wait the action of Council, but in this instance an opportunity to get a very excellent pair of horses was presented and it was thought best to take advantage of it.

Mr. Swan, of the public property committee, gave a satisfactory explanation of the hasty purchase, saying that the horses were badly needed and the opportunity presenting they were bought in the city's interest.

The action of the Aldermen in ordering the bill to be paid was concurred in.

An ordinance appropriating \$5,000 for general street and sewer repair work in passed by the Aldermen. Under the law this was laid over until the next meeting.

Mr. Birrell moved that the Aldermen be invited to join Council for the election of a police commissioner from the Third ward.

When the Aldermen had come into the Council chamber, Mr. Birrell put in nomination Mr. August Oehlert and he was elected without opposition. Council then adjourned to meet on the second Tuesday in January.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Alexandria, Va., held December 13, 1910, there were present: E. F. Marbury, esp., President, and Messrs. Hill, Brill, Ballinger, Ogden, Fitzgerald and James F. Webster.

Submitted the final report of the committee regarding the exchange of bonds of 1879. The report was ordered to be received.

Mr. Field introduced the following, which was adopted: Resolved, That Council adjourns it be to meet again on the second Tuesday in January, 1911.

Mr. Field also submitted favorable reports on a resolution directing the Auditor to draw his warrant for \$50 with which to pay for two horses purchased for the Columbia Steam Fire Engine Company; also a report recommending an appropriation of \$24 to defray the expenses of the Virginia League of Municipalities; also a report recommending a resolution appropriating \$5,000 for continuing street and sewer work. The reports were adopted by unanimous votes.

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tion was lost by the following vote: Ayes, Messrs. Hill, Ballinger, Ogden, Fitzgerald and James F. Webster. Noes, Messrs. Marbury, Brill, and James F. Webster.

The Aldermen subsequently proceeded to the election of a Police Commissioner from the Third ward, and upon their return adjourned.

TESTE: LUTHER H. THOMPSON, Clerk.

COMMON COUNCIL.

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the city of Alexandria, Va., held November 22, 1910, there were present: Hubert Snowden, esp., President, and Messrs. Leadbeater, Burke, Yates, Brumback, Smith, Brill, Williams, Birrell, Marbury, Bracken, Harrison, Swan, Marshall, Spinks, and Chauncey.

A report of the Clerk of Gas showing the proceeds of the city gas for the six months ending November 30, 1910, with comparative statements, as required by law, was read by the chairman of the Committee on Public Property.

Bills from the Health Department for groceries furnished persons confined by contagious diseases amounting to \$25.50, were referred to the Joint Committee on Poor and Finance.

A resolution by Mr. Spinks requiring the City Auditor to prepare a personal and confidential report on the condition of the city's finances, was referred to the Joint Committee on Streets, Light and General Laws.

An ordinance to prohibit the willful interference with the sweeping of any street, was read the first time and referred to the Joint Committee on Streets and Light.

An ordinance to provide for ready men to the police department of the city of Alexandria, Va., was read the first time and referred to the Joint Committee on Police and Finance.

An ordinance to provide for an annual contingent fund for the use of the police department, was read the first time and referred to the Joint Committee on Streets, Light and General Laws.

A resolution by Mr. Brockett to place an improved gas light at the northeast corner of Columbus and Wythe streets, was referred to the Committee on Light.

A resolution appropriating \$100 to improve the roadway on north Washington street extended to the county road, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

The final report of the Committee on Finance regarding the exchange of bonds of 1879, for bonds of 1898, and sale of bonds of 1898, was received from the Board of Aldermen and read in full.

A resolution recommending the Auditor to draw his warrant for \$50 with which to pay for two horses purchased for the Columbia Steam Fire Engine Company; also a report recommending an appropriation of \$24 to defray the expenses of the Virginia League of Municipalities; also a report recommending a resolution appropriating \$5,000 for continuing street and sewer work. The reports were adopted by unanimous votes.

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Alexandria Gazette, and out of the city in a financial stock paper of large circulation, the proposed sale of the \$130,000 of new bonds. The city's credit was thereby being placed in jeopardy. The proposition of one bank being as follows:

First: \$100,000 would be loaned for six months at 4 per cent. and the balance of \$30,000 for four months at 3 1/2 per cent. for six months allowing the city to pay any part of the notes during the period. Third: \$100,000 six months at 4 1/4 per cent. with the privilege of renewal for another six months at 3 per cent.

The above propositions being coupled with conditions that were not under authority of your committee, could not at that time be considered, even had they been the best offered, and they were not.

The proposition of another bank was as follows: To loan \$100,000 at 3 1/2 per cent. for four months with the privilege to renew the note for next four months, and if it was necessary for the city to have more money, to allow the bank to advance the city the amount of \$25,000. The city under this agreement was allowed the privilege when selling a bond to use the proceeds upon payment of new notes only making the interest 1 per cent. and using every effort to market the bonds at a fair price. We quote a letter in regard to the \$50,000 of \$1,000 each.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Alexandria, Va., Jan. 1, 1910.

To the Finance Committee, City Council, of Alexandria.

Gentlemen: The notes for \$100,000 given in April last, and negotiated by this bank were received in August-September, 1909.

Payments were made on account of notes to the amount of \$8,000, and bonds to the amount of \$25,000 were sold in the Alexandria Gazette, in the column devoted to "Virginia Notes," it was stated that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each.

Between January 23, 1910, and September 23, 1910, the bank had received \$14 bonds of \$1,000 each, leaving \$15. The bond market apparently was not an inviting one for money in the Alexandria Gazette, in the column devoted to "Virginia Notes," it was stated that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each.

There were printed the following bonds known as 1908 issue:

1908 BONDS SOLD.

These figures show that the \$144,700 netted the city \$143,000.

Mention has been made of the fact that on June 30, 1909, \$20,000 was sold at par leaving \$20,000 on hand. They form part of the \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each, and that the bank had received \$1,000,000 of \$1,000 each.

Referring again to the only bid offered for the bonds in April, 1909, \$2,250, it is shown in a report to